



# Job Corps disABILITY News

March 2008

A Resource for Job Corps Disability Coordinators

## Assistive Technology — Why Use it?



Assistive technology can enable an individual with a disability to overcome barriers in communication, education, work, recreation, or socialization. It can allow greater independence and can have the ability to enhance the individual's quality of life. Assistive technology includes products, devices, or equipment that can be bought and/or loaned.

Many times we think of assistive technology as being expensive devices and do not bother researching items available.

Often this is not the case. For example, a pencil grip is a low-tech assistive technology for a student with communication or physical difficulties. Many state and federal programs offer aid or support to schools and agencies to provide the necessary items that can effectively assist in an individual's ability to overcome obstacles. For assistive technology resources in your state click here: <http://www.resna.org/taproject/at/statecontacts.html>.

The National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership (NATTAP) (<http://www.resna.org/taproject/index.html>) has information regarding where and how to obtain assistive technology. It also has information on device loan programs which can provide short-term loans of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies and others.

The following are some examples of assistive technology items:

- **Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices** allow an individual to key a sentence that is then "spoken" by an electronic speech generator
- **A computer program that scans and reads text** allows an individual to have his/her text-book read out-loud
- **Talking calculator** allows an individual to hear the numbers
- **Alpha Smart keyboard** allows an individual to take notes and write by typing it into a keyboard
- **Noise canceling headphones** allows an individual to drown out background noise
- **Enlarged print** allows an individual to read larger text

### Web Resources

#### Job Corps DisABILITY

<http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov/>

#### Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities

<http://jccdrcl.jobcorps.gov/ld>

#### Mental Health Disabilities

<http://jchealth.jobcorps.gov/health-topics/mhd>

#### Job Accommodation Network (JAN)

<http://www.jan.wvu.edu/>

#### Guidance for Meeting the Needs of Applicants/Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

[http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov/html/hoh\\_overview.htm](http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov/html/hoh_overview.htm)

## Assistive Technology Resources

**Disabilityinfo.gov** is designed to serve as a "one-stop" electronic link for people with disabilities and their families. <http://www.disabilityinfo.gov>.

**ABLEDATA** offers (1) an *Informed Consumer's Guide to Funding Resources*, which highlights different funding options that may be of interest ([http://www.abledata.com/abledata\\_docs/funding.htm](http://www.abledata.com/abledata_docs/funding.htm)), and (2) a product list by accommodation category (<http://www.abledata.com/abledata.cfm?pageid=19327&top=22&deep=1>).

**DisabilityResources.org** offers an index of alternative funding sources, vendors, and device information (<http://www.disabilityresources.org>).

**Georgia Assistive Technology Project (Tools for Life)** has an online guide for using assistive technology in a classroom or social settings. They also provide an excellent list of national resources that can assist center in identifying individual student needs (<http://www.gatfl.org/ldguide/>).

**The Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access (CATEA)** has a search tool based on 11 functional limitation categories. The site will walk you through 4 steps to identifying appropriate AT accommodations for students. Most products listed contain pricing and a brief overview of the device functionality (<http://www.catea.org/>).



## Community Partnerships for Center Life and Career Transition



For students, Job Corps is a stepping stone that becomes the enabler and energizer for a successful future. Students with disabilities benefit not only from the career technical training we provide, but also from the community relationships and support resources we offer during their stay on center. Disability Coordinators should engage the Career Transition Managers (CTM) and Business Community Liaisons (BCL) in dialogue about relationships they have developed or need assistance developing to

better serve students with disabilities while in Job Corps and after.

For example, at Harpers Ferry, the CTM and BCL work together to build not only employment relationships, but also collegial and support service opportunities that will ensure a smooth transition from center life for students with disabilities. These relationships include partnerships with local universities interested in encouraging students to apply for college through grant assistance; temporary and permanent employment agencies specialized in placing individuals with disabilities; self-paced education services providing remediation and advancement opportunities; and, organizations that pair students with social workers who will assist students in making successful adult living transitions.

Ultimately the role of the Job Corps' disability program is to ensure that all relationships developed on center between community support agencies and students are pursued and maintained once a student leaves the center. The following are web resources by state or region worth a visit.

- **Disability Resources** has an index that lists disability organizations by state. <http://www.disabilityresources.org/DRMreg.html>
- **LD Online** has partnered with the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) to provide a state-by-state list of disability resources. <http://www.ldonline.org/ldresources/links/state>
- The **Business Leadership Network** has an office near you to support employment efforts for individuals with disabilities. <http://www.usbln.org/chapters/chapters.aspx>

Contact Kimberly Jones ([kim.jones@humanitas.com](mailto:kim.jones@humanitas.com)) to share your best practices if your CTM and BCL are involved in acquiring disability support services.

### FREE Resources !!!

Job Corps, in conjunction with SIATech, developed two DVDs designed to support your reasonable accommodation team and classroom instructors.

- *Team Approach to Accommodating Students with Disabilities at Job Corps.* Demonstrates the center reasonable accommodation process, including an IDT meeting with an applicant. Three accommodation scenarios are featured. This DVD is a great staff training tool.
- *Ten Simple Strategies for Enhancing Educational Experiences.* This instructor-focused DVD demonstrates successful inclusion tactics for connecting with students. It was filmed at several Job Corps centers.

*Assistive Technology Wheel.* Designed by Council for Exceptional Children and the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative, this wheel takes each of the major disability categories and provides examples of low- to high-level technology accommodations based on student need.

Contact Kimberly Jones ([kim.jones@humanitas.com](mailto:kim.jones@humanitas.com)) if you would like any of these resources.

### Regional Disability Coordinators

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### Recently Released Job Corps Notices

Program Instruction 07-16 (December 11, 2007): Additional Guidance and Form for Direct Threat Assessments

<http://jchealth.jobcorps.gov/documents/program-instructions/>